



CONSTELLATION

Summer 2022

A Spirit of Community at the 2022 MAPS Conference

Noreen Grice, President-Elect
Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society



“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

– Coretta Scott King

As the COVID pandemic descended upon the world in 2020, planetariums abruptly closed and the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society’s in-person conference pivoted to a virtual conference. The following year, the 2021 MAPS conference again was held as a virtual experience. At both events, we connected safely from our homes, offices and theaters to share concerns, resources and solutions that had been developed and deployed. We remained hopeful that we soon would see each other again in person. We soon did!

We gathered together from May 18-21, 2022 in Orono, Maine at the University of Maine’s Versant Power Astronomy Center and Maynard Jordan Planetarium. Members of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society arrived both internationally and from across the country. The pre-conference kicked off with a mini-LIPS (live interactive planetarium symposium) workshop. After lots of very needed “getting reacquainted” hugs and greetings and welcoming new MAPS planetarians (Nice to meet you, Eliot Severn from Connecticut! Hello, Robin Byrne and Adam Thanz from Tennessee!), we sat in a circle to share resources, ideas, thoughts and our commitment to astronomy education.

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CONSTELLATION

The Constellation is the newsletter of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society (MAPS). It is published four times a year near the equinoxes and solstices. For more information about MAPS, see: mapsplanetarium.org.

To submit an article or ad contact the Editor, Kevin Conod, at kdconod@yahoo.com

GLPA in the Queen City October 18-22, 2022



*Buffalo State's brand new
Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium*

Plans continue to unfold for the first ever GLPA conference in Buffalo, NY. As NY is technically in the MAPS region, we hope that many MAPS members can use this opportunity to attend a GLPA gathering.

Hosts:

Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium
Williamsville Space Lab Planetarium

This will be the first year implementing a new extended format. We are trying very hard to eliminate concurrent presentations so that all delegates can partake in ALL of the sessions. We will begin with our opening reception on Tuesday, October 18th. The beautiful Buffalo State College (BSC) Student Union Social Hall will be our venue for this reception and some other meals, and the Sponsor Hall will be in the same space. At the opening reception, you will also be able to enjoy the top-notch jazz of the Tim Clarke trio.

Wednesday begins with delegate presentations and sponsor hall time at the BSC Student Union. After lunch, we will begin our visits to three spectacular destinations. Buffalo State's brand new Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium will show off their 4K SciDome, RGB SkyLaseFX with all the extras, and a stunning Zeiss ZKP4 star projector. But wait, there's more!

Wednesday afternoon will also include a tour viewing some of the incredible buildings of Buffalo which is a destination city for architectural tourism. Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin Martin House and the Richardson Olmsted Complex are just some of the high-

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GLPA in the Queen City - October 2022

lights on this tour. Another destination will be the University at Buffalo's Center for Computational Research. Dr. Will Kinney who will be the dinner speaker that evening has created simulations of the early universe's evolution on these clusters, and Director Adrian Levesque will discuss how their research works to enhance scientific, academic and business projects involving supercomputing. Dr. Kinney will join us later to discuss "Cosmic Inflation and the Beginning of the Universe."



Williamsville North High School welcomes us to the Williamsville Space Lab Planetarium on Thursday. This school planetarium features a Sky-Skan Definiti full-dome system, a Spitz A5 star projector and an RGB SkyLase. The school's spacious auditorium will host other delegate and sponsor presentations as well as our annual business meeting. Returning to Buffalo State again for dinner, Dr. Wendy Paterson, Dean of the School of Education, will present "Space, the Final Frontier: These are the Voyages..."

Late evening activities throughout the conference will include the traditional hospitality format as well as alternative activities in other spaces. Our conference hotel is the Embassy Suites in downtown Buffalo, which is situated right on our trendy Chippewa Street and near the artsy Elmwood Strip. We are hoping that you can enjoy exploring the neighborhood nightlife as yet another option. By the way, the hotel rooms are all actually suites with ample space to share with one or even two other people.

Friday will begin at the hotel when Dr. Shannon Schmoll will deliver the Astronomy Update. State and special interest group meetings will be interspersed with more delegate presentations. We are honored to have Dr. Jenny Shipway leading us in an interactive session from "across the pond" to help us understand how psychology research can help us dispel misconceptions. The annual banquet will follow, and our Armand Spitz lecturer will be Mr. David Weinrich.

The conference will conclude with workshops on Saturday morning and closing ceremonies before lunchtime. But wait, there's more! Please consider coming early or staying late. There will be a GLIPSA session all day on Tuesday. There may also be a special laser show design workshop before the opening reception as well. A post-conference tour to one of the seven natural wonders of the world will be led by our co-host Dr. Kevin Williams. Kevin is an Associate Professor of Earth Sciences. This is a very special opportunity to learn about Niagara Falls from an expert. After that, you can visit the Buffalo Museum of Science's rooftop Kellogg Observatory and view the night sky through the recently refurbished Lundin refractor.

Please join us in Buffalo from October 18th through the 22nd this fall. You won't be disappointed, and maybe you'll even consider coming back on April 8, 2024 because Buffalo is right in the centerline of the coming total solar eclipse. Two spectacular natural wonders await you in Western New York.

For more information visit glpa.org/2022

— Mark Percy

Minutes of MAPS Business Meeting Versant Power Astronomy Center, University of Maine, Orono, Maine Friday, May 20, 2022

Brian Koehler call the Meeting to order at 4:38 pm.

Secretary's Report - Amie Gallagher

Review of Minutes from June 2021. The Business Meeting minutes were printed in the Summer 2021 Constellation. In keeping with our "Green" theme for this Conference, we did not print out those minutes. A QR Code was made available to the members of this meeting so they could review those minutes. Shawn Laatsch moved to accept. April Whitt seconded. Motion to approve as written accepted by the membership.

Treasurer's Report - Mike Francis

Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet documents attached.

Membership Report - Mike Francis

We have 91 members. Those are Voting Members and includes Life members.

President's Report - Brian Koehler

It's been an honor to serve so far. Putting a call out to our 91 members. Who wants to be more involved? There are lots of opportunities. Our Constitution Review committee needs two more people. Periodically, the membership looks to make changes with by-laws. All the Committee Chairs are listed on the website. You can contact them directly, or talk to an Executive Member and we'll make an introduction for you. Our organization is stronger when we all chip in.

Committee reports:

Audit – Paul Krupinski

This past January, we had a Board vote. Four people ran. The incumbents were reelected. Thanks to Jacki Baughman for also running for Board. The next election is for President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary. Slate needs to be submitted by Nov 1. It is a 2-week vote in January. The election results go directly to Janet Stern, the webmaster.

Awards – Kerri Kiker (reported by Brian Koehler)

We will be giving out 4 awards at the Banquet tonight. A lot of the awards are formal certificates for awards that were given out during the past two virtual conferences. There were not a lot of nominations this year. For the Fellows Award: If you think that is you, please let us know. You can self-nominate for Fellow.

- Exceptional Service: someone who has done something special/significant to you.
- Distinguished Award - our highest award.
- Award of Recognition - given to a person who has done extraordinary service to their institution. This award is good for volunteers.

Constitution Review – Mark Percy

Our By-Laws say we NEED three people on this committee. Please talk to Mark Percy or Brian Koehler about joining. There are some changes from previous business meetings, votes that need to be incorporated into the ByLaws.

Mike McConville: has the Code of Conduct been incorporated into the ByLaws?

Patty/Brian: it's not in the ByLaws, but it is on our website.

Education – Lee Ann Hennig emailed the Board:

Lee Ann Hennig, Education Committee Chair

The Committee continues to seek out contributions for articles and membership participation. Patty suggested a new member, Alicia Robinson, so I invited her to join the committee.

We need to get materials up on the website now that it is being transitioned from the old site and the problems are being ironed out. Below is a copy of my correspondence with Janet (Web Committee):

On Feb 24, 2022, at 1:52 PM, <lahennig@verizon.net> <lahennig@verizon.net> wrote:

Dear MAPS Education Committee,

I contacted the MAPS Web Committee and posed the following:

The Education Committee would like to get a start on its webpage. Below is a copy of part of a note in which I asked for Education Committee members' responses.

We also need to organize our website for the Education page now. Please share your ideas on:

1. **Content:** what should we include- "tips", "program notes", "topics", "past articles from our columns", etc.
2. **Organization:** in what format do we want to present the content- how can it be most useful to the membership?
3. **Website resources:** can we post a list of useful websites- this would have to be list we periodically edit- we could start small and work up over time- organize them by category: educational topics, teacher/planetarium training, amateur astronomy, etc.
4. **Anything else?**

April responded immediately with the following suggestions:

"I think the most useful website we can offer is a searchable one. Great to have what you suggested- tips, useful websites - and it really needs to be easy to search.

It might be useful include grant possibilities, such as the MAPS grant, so teachers/instructors/planetarians could take advantage of what's out there in the funding arena.

With today's technology, I expect many of us produce our own shows, using video clips and images in whatever show production suite(s) we use. Might links to scripts from shows we've done in the past be useful? Perhaps to generate ideas or as research for a particular topic?"

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AN UPCOMING ANNIVERSARY AND PLANETARIUMS

A few old farts like me may remember how planetarians dealt with the USA's Bicentennial in 1976. Now we approach the 250th anniversary in 2026. Four years is not too early to start thinking about show possibilities. Here we consider some thoughts aided with ideas from 46 years ago.

In preparation for the Bicentennial the Hansen Planetarium had obtained a grant to prepare an appropriate show, which was made available to other planetariums. I incorporated the segments on Native American astronomy into my own Bicentennial show. Among the Founding Fathers Jefferson had made some comments on meteorites (initially doubted their existence). He also composed music, which I had to travel to Manhattan's music library to copy and incorporate into my show. Wagner College's President at the time was from Virginia, providing a perfect accent for Jefferson.



John Quincy Adams promoted and got Congressional funding for America's first major observatory (French made refractor). Hyperion was discovered in 1848 by father and son team William and George Bond, the first Americans to discover a moon. Today, unlike in 1976, we have close up photos of Hyperion to use in shows. Another moon worth incorporating into shows is Amalthea, found by Edward Emerson Barnard in 1892. The development of large reflectors starting at Harvard was American. From mythology of Native Americans to lunar landings and deep space probes a 250th anniversary planetarium show can easily build on what was done in 1976.

Thomas Wm. Hamilton (retired from Viewlex, Wagner College Planetarium, Dreyfus Planetarium, HOSS Planetarium)

For more information about the 250th Anniversary of the United States see: america250.org

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After nearly 50 years of operation, the Mogami Planetarium knows exactly what they need, and they have chosen the GOTO AETHERIOS Hybrid - the famous GOTO quality optical sky paired with full-featured digital full-dome simulation - *all in perfect synchronization.*

The GOTO AETHERIOS is designed for domes 4-12 meters in diameter and can be used in both permanent and portable installations. The compact starball is 280mm in diameter (11 inches!) and the weight is only 18 kgs – but the image produced by AETHERIOS is equal in quality to systems far more expensive.

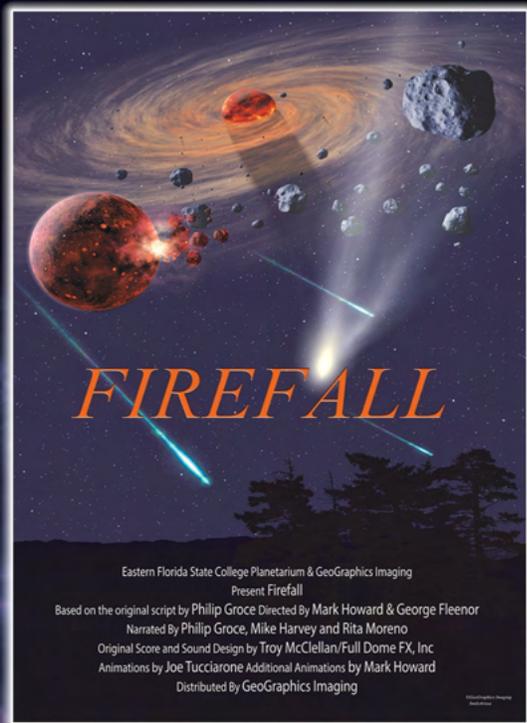


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(Continued from page 5)

As suggestions come in from Ed. Com. members we will discuss them. I just wanted to get your first impressions from what April and I are proposing- is it doable, is there a better way, are there any limitations on what can be posted, are there any special permissions we need (like specific website resources references), etc.?

Thanks for your guidance,
Lee Ann”

Janet responded with the following:

”Hi Lee Ann,

Everything you propose is doable. I suggest arranging all your content as follows:

Use the page: <https://mapsplanetarium.org/category/education/> to create a "home page" specifically for Education.

This can list all the types of content you are considering to create with links to each page.

If your content will be large, we can place a search function on this page that will only search under Education topics. As you pull together content for each page, please send it along to me and I can get it styled and ready for the website.

Looking forward to seeing all these great ideas come to the MAPS membership!

Best,
Janet”

Patty Seaton: if you gave a talk here, send it to Lee Ann for publication on our website. If you have suggestions about what you want the Education page to look like, send those to her as well.

Elections – Kevin Williams (presented by Brian Koehler)

If you are nominating yourself or someone else, contact Kevin Williams.

Historian – John Meader (presented by Shawn Laatsch)

Shawn: John is working on a project Shawn asked for: images from this conference. There doesn't seem to be any photographic evidence that the conference of 2000 existed. That was hosted by Shawn L in Prince Frederick, MD.

John is also interested in all historical documents. There are some years around 1998-2000 where there seems to be some stuff missing.

Membership – already given

Memorial – Paul Krupinski

If anyone has passed away, please let Paul know. Obit, link, pictures, and it will be posted on our website and reported at the Banquet.

Shawn: are you in touch with John Hare or Ian McLennan? They are doing the same for IPS and want to include anyone in the Planetarium field.

Program – Noreen Grice

The Conference is in session. Shawn has done heroic work. At no extra charge to you, you have an opportunity to add one continuing education credit from UMaine. Participants must attend at least 10 contact hours and submit a paper describing 3 things you have learned and plan to incorporate into your teaching. You have until the end of the month to submit your paper to Brian Koehler.

Conference 2023 Planning - Adam Thanz

Bays Mountain in TN will host a national conference June 20-24, 2023. "Stars for All" is the title. "It Takes a Universe" is the theme. All of this will be on a Google Drive (QR Code) for you to review information.

- TShirts will be given out with one of three designs.

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- A big focus of this conference will be Education. Astronomy Teaching bootcamp. On 6/19/23, led by Tim Slater. Learn activities to enhance your ability to each astronomy.
- 6/20/23: Mini LIPS
- Other vendor workshops planned.
- Activities for families are planned.
- Bays Mountain has Zeiss and Velvet projectors.
- Large vendor hall
- Field trips: Experiential. Cave exploring, nature hikes, Gray fossil site, and more!
- Regional Conference Customs included: Margaret Noble Address, Armand Spitz Lecture, Astronomy Update, Silent Auction, Woodchucks!
- Workshops: Make-n-Take Earth-Moon scale model kit, Formative Assessment Teaching Strategies (Sara Schultz), other workshops offered by participants.
- Jonesboro, TN: oldest town in TN. Settled in 1769. International Storytelling Center will be the site of our Gala dinner. A professional storyteller will be part of the evening.
- Hospitality Suite
- Make your hotel reservations early. There are 350 rooms. \$126/night. Reservations open in July 2022.
- Free Entrance and passes to the park for you and your family. Incorporates weekends before and after.
- 30 minutes from TRI airport

Registration cost: about \$350 and will be inclusive. Registration limited to 350 delegates/vendors. There will be a student rate, hopefully half price.

Publications – Kevin Conod (reported by Brian Koehler)

In the very near future, we will have a deadline for the Summer Constellation. Please contribute.

We need more people for this committee. Kevin is by himself. Publications have not been 4 times a year because he doesn't always have something to include. Please contribute!

Website - Tim Collins (reported by Paul Krupinski)

It's been recently updated. Janet Sterns is webmaster. Tim is Chair. You can contact Tim or Paul if you see something on the website that doesn't work. They will contact Janet.

Brian: one new update is there's a contact form for all the officers. This prevents some spam.

Paul: We are going to get some of John Meader's pictures up onto the website.

Strategic Planning Committee

Brian: a SPC meets roughly every five years to evaluate positives and challenges. Steve Mitch is Chair. Lee Ann Henig, Patty Seaton, Paul Krupinski, and Susan Button are members. One recommendation that we're adopting is that the Executive Committee will meet a minimum of 4 times per year. This will help keep items / action from getting lost and forgotten about.

Patty: some things from the SPC and Focus Group have been incorporated into the conference: the Uncrewed mission activities, the Planetarium Primer. We are all approachable. Please come to us with any concerns you have.

SPC recommendation was more inclusive language in our ByLaws.

Old or Unfinished Business

None

(Continued on page 14)

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New Business

- Patty: we want to encourage new members to participate. The SPC recommends instituting term limits for all elected positions.
Paul: Lee Ann is the longest serving Board Member, Paul is second longest.
Patty: we love participating, but we want new people to be involved.
Patty: also, we want to consider having the Treasurer be a four-year term instead of two years, because it takes a lot of time to change over bank information.
Brian: this winter, the election is for a two-year term.
Susan Button: don't forget that you GET more than you GIVE.
Brian: there may be a discussion / vote in the future.
- Paul: Can we remind people that we are looking for a conference host for 2024.
Brian: Please talk to Noreen if you are interested in hosting the 2024 MAPS Conference.
Paul: as we think about conference sites and dates, don't forget that there's a solar eclipse in April 2024.
- Mike McConville: IPS Conference in Germany is the Centennial year. IPS will be at the end of June 2024. People who want to go to MAPS and IPS, may be able to contact the organizations and apply for scholarships.
- Tony Kilgore: can we create a member directory with our pictures?
Paul: that's been an idea in the works for decades. Some people don't want their picture on the website.
Brian: Mike Francis is Membership chair (as well as treasurer) and is a committee of one. That could be something for the Membership and Website committees to work on.
- Mike Francis: 30-40% of MAPS members are IPS members.
Mike McConville: most regional members are MAPS.

Paul Krupinski motioned to adjourn; Susan Button seconded. Approved.

Meeting ended at 5:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amie Gallagher
MAPS Secretary



Mars Sample Return Campaign

NASA and ESA (European Space Agency) recently held a systems requirement review as part of the Mars Sample Return campaign's conceptual design phase. The mission's architecture is expected to be finalized in September 2022.

The Mars Sample Return campaign may revolutionize humanity's understanding of Mars by returning scientifically selected samples for study using the most sophisticated instruments around the world. This strategic partnership with ESA will be the first mission to return samples from another planet, including the first launch from the surface of another planet. The samples to be returned – currently being collected by Perseverance during its exploration of Jezero Crater, home to an ancient river-delta – are thought to be the best opportunity to reveal the early evolution of Mars, including the potential for life.

For more information about the Mars Sample Return campaign, visit: <https://mars.nasa.gov/msr/>

A Spirit of Community at the 2022 MAPS Conference

(Continued from page 1)

“One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn’t as individuals.”

– Jean Vanier

The opening conference reception in the vendor hall provided not only local food (always welcome for hungry planetarians!) but the company of our colleagues, who teach in the planetarium, who work as vendors and who connect us to scientists and their discoveries. That evening, attendees also explored fun hands-on astronomy teaching tools and participated in a session called Planetarium 101, with great examples of strategies to support new planetarians in their future and continued successes in the field.

The MAPS conference focused on the theme “Dome Visualization and Climate Change” with talks and presentation from those in our planetarium community and outside expert guest speakers. Other talks included educational programming, accessibility and a peek at next year’s national planetarium conference in Tennessee. We had the opportunity to view objects through the university observatory and participate in a mission at the Challenger Learning Center of Maine. Carter Emmart and I teamed up to build a do-it-yourself-oxygen-filter to save the crew on the space station. We saved Mark Webb!

What happens when technology doesn’t work as planned? We’ve all experienced this, and there was no one more unflappable than Steve Fentress, Director of the Stasenburgh Planetarium and our banquet speaker. With a laptop ready and slides cued, technology did not cooperate and his presentation could not be displayed. But Steve continued on to give an amazing pictorially descriptive presentation. His talk was entitled “Fresh Courage Glimmers from Planet” and it was one of the best talks I’ve ever attended. Steve displayed the personal courage of perseverance and reminded us that technology may fail but human connections and community are stronger.

The conference ended with a trip to the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum. This undiscovered museum in Bethel Maine has an amazing collection of meteorites, moon rocks and other spectacular samples and gems. We each got to take our photo holding a very large Moon rock and Mars rock. What an experience for us to share!

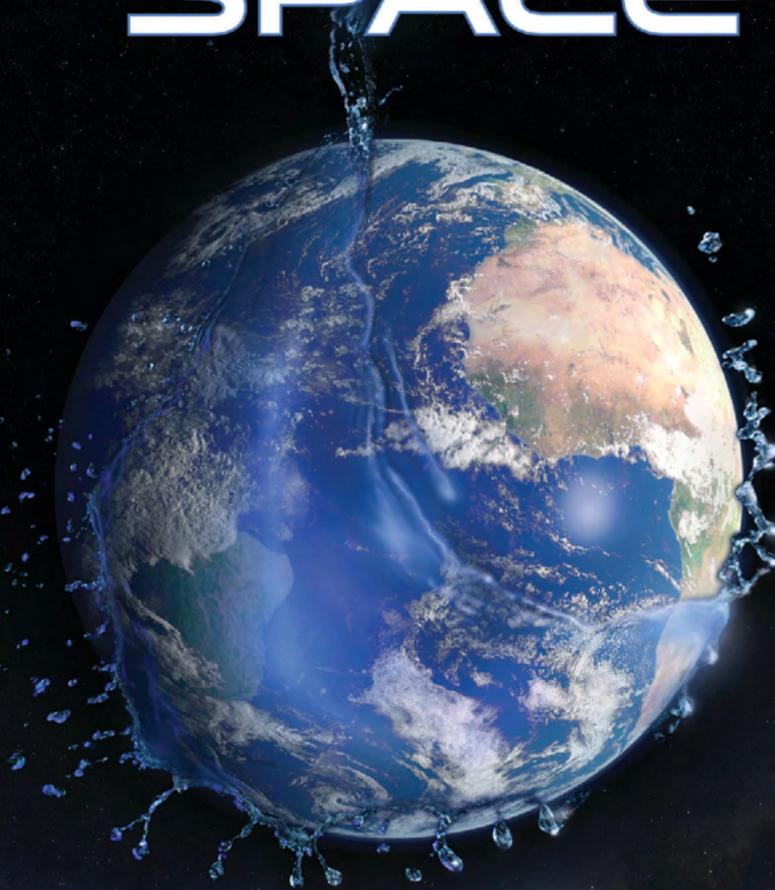
The planetarium field gives us the unique opportunity to change the perspectives of learners we encounter in school, under the dome and online. I can’t wait to see everyone at next year’s conference as we continue to expand resources, technology, discovery and friendship in our planetarium community.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.”

— Margaret Mead

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